

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 111024

R 170855Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5302

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, XC

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS REACTION TO US BOMBING HALT

1. THE POLISH PRESS MARKED THE AUGUST 15 DEADLINE FOR CESSATION OF US BOMBING IN CAMBODIA WITH ONLY SCATTERED, GENERALLY BACK PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTING THE TRAGEDY AND FUTILITY OF THE BOMBING OF THE US "INTERVENTION" IN INDOCHINA AS A WHOLE AND HERALDING ITS APPARENT TERMINATION. ON AUGUST 16 THE PRESS REPORTED THE ACTUAL CESSATION OF BOMBING WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. ZYCIE WARSZAWY'S AUGUST 15 EDITORIAL NOTED THE TRAGEDY OF RECENT US BOMBING ERRORS AND OBSERVED THAT THE DAYS OF THE LON NOL REGIME SEEM NUMBERED. IT CONCLUDED THAT, TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS PRESAGED BY THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THAT COUNTRY, THE HALT OF US BOMBING IN CAMBODIA CLOSES THE "LAST ACT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US ARMED INTERVENTION IN INDOCHINA." TRYBUNA LUDU EXPRESSED

THE HOPE THAT "THIS TIME" THE CESSATION OF BOMBING AND OTHER US MILITARY ACTION IN CAMBODIA WILL TURN OUT TO BE FINAL. TRYBUNA LUDU CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT "WORLD OPINION WILL WATCH VIGILANTLY THE BEHAVIOR OF SAIGON WHERE THE MOVEMENT TO AID LON NOL OF TEN THOUSAND 'VOLUNTEERS' APPARENTLY FROM AMONG THE CAMBODIAN POPULATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED." TAKING A PHILOSOPHIC VIEW, SLOWO POWSZECHNE, THE PRO-REGIME CATHOLIC DAILY, OBSERVED IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL THAT CONGRESS, WHICH IN ITS RIVALRY WITH THE PRESIDENCY HAS GENERALLY BEEN A SEAT OF ISOLATIONISTTENDENCIES, HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A HUNDRED YEARS SUCCEEDED IN ORDERING THE PRESIDENT TO DESIST FROM MILITARY ACTION. SLOWO SUGGESTED THAT THE BOMBING HALT THUS SUPPORTS THE THEORY THAT THE US IS BEGINNING A PERIOD OF "INTROVERSION" OR ISOLATIONISM.

3. ON AUGUST 16 ZYCIE WARSZAWY FRONT-PAGED ITS REPORT THAT THE BOMBING HAD ACTUALLY ENDED, CALLING THIS A HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMBODIAN PEOPLE. ZYCIE'S REPORT INCLUDED PRINCE SIHANOUK'S STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT AND CLOSED WITH A UPI STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE DIMENSIONS AND COSTS OF US INDOCHINA BOMBING OPERATIONS. IN AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE ZYCIE REPORTED A PENTAGON STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO CONTINUE RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER CAMBODIA, UNDER ARMED ESCORT IF NECESSARY. TRYBUNA LUDU BASED ITS COVERAGE PRIMARILY ON THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT, INCLUDING ITS EXPRESSIONS OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT OF PHNOM PENH.

4. COMMENT: THE CAMBODIAN SITUTATION HAS GENERALLY BEEN RELEGATED TO THE BACK PAGES HERE IN RECENT WEEKS, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF REPORTS ON THE MISTAKE BOMBINGS BY US AIRCRAFT OF VILLAGES AND FORCES FRIENDLY TO LON NOL. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE BOMBING HALT IS SO DECIDEDLY LOW KEY AND DEVOID OF CROWING THAT ONE PERCEIVES AN ALMOST POSITIVE NOTE IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE HALT AS MARKING AN END TO US MILITARY ACTION IN INDOCHINA.
DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PEACE TALKS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973WARSAW04135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730829/aaaaavjo.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH PRESS REACTION TO US BOMBING HALT
TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, XC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005